

REMARKS

The Office Action objected to the drawings, and required new drawings. In response, the Applicant files concurrently with this paper a set of formal drawings and a request for drawing change.

The Office Action objected to the specification as containing informalities. In response, the Applicant has amended the specification to overcome the objections. The Applicant has further amended the specification to correct typographical errors. The amendments do not introduce any new matter.

Before this amendment, claims 1-66 were pending in the application. The Office objected to claims 20-23, 31-33, 53-56, and 64-66 as depending on rejected claims, and rejected claims 1-19, 24-30, 34-52, and 57-63. The Office Action indicated that the objected-to claims would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims.

Although the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejections of, and objections to, the claims, the Applicant with this paper cancels and amends the claims without prejudice and seeks to pursue the allowable (objected to) claims in this application. More specifically, the Applicant cancels without prejudice claims 1-19, 24-30, 34-52, and 57-63, and amends claims 20 (to add the limitations of claims 14 and 17), 21-22, 31, 33, 53 (to add the limitations of claims 47 and 50), 54-56, 64, and 66.

The Applicant reserves the right, and presently intends, to pursue the rejected and/or other claims in follow-on and/or other applications and to present arguments with respect to such claims in such applications. Furthermore, the Applicant notes that it does not amend or reject the claims because of the rejections over the cited references; rather, the Applicant merely seeks to facilitate compact prosecution and to expedite the issuance of a patent.

The Office Action objected to claims 7, 10, 22, 24, 34, 43, 47, and 55-57 as including various informalities. With this amendment, the Applicant has canceled claims 7, 10, 24, 34, 43, 47, and 57,

so the objections to those claims are moot. The Applicant has further amended claims 22 and 55-56 to overcome the informalities.

In view of the above remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the presently pending claims are allowable. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests a prompt Notice of Allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in allowable condition. Consequently, favorable reconsideration and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. No fee (with the exception of the petition for extension of time) is believed to be due. Should any fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, however, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 10-1205/SILA:073.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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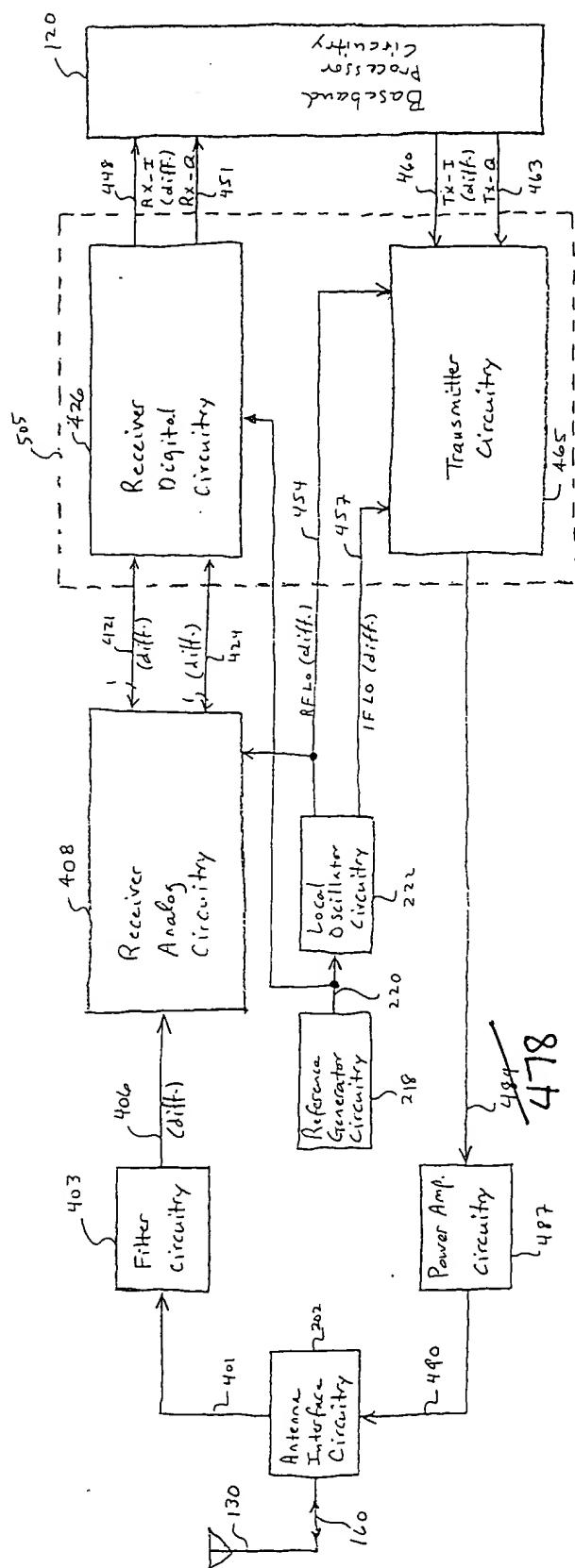


FIG. 5

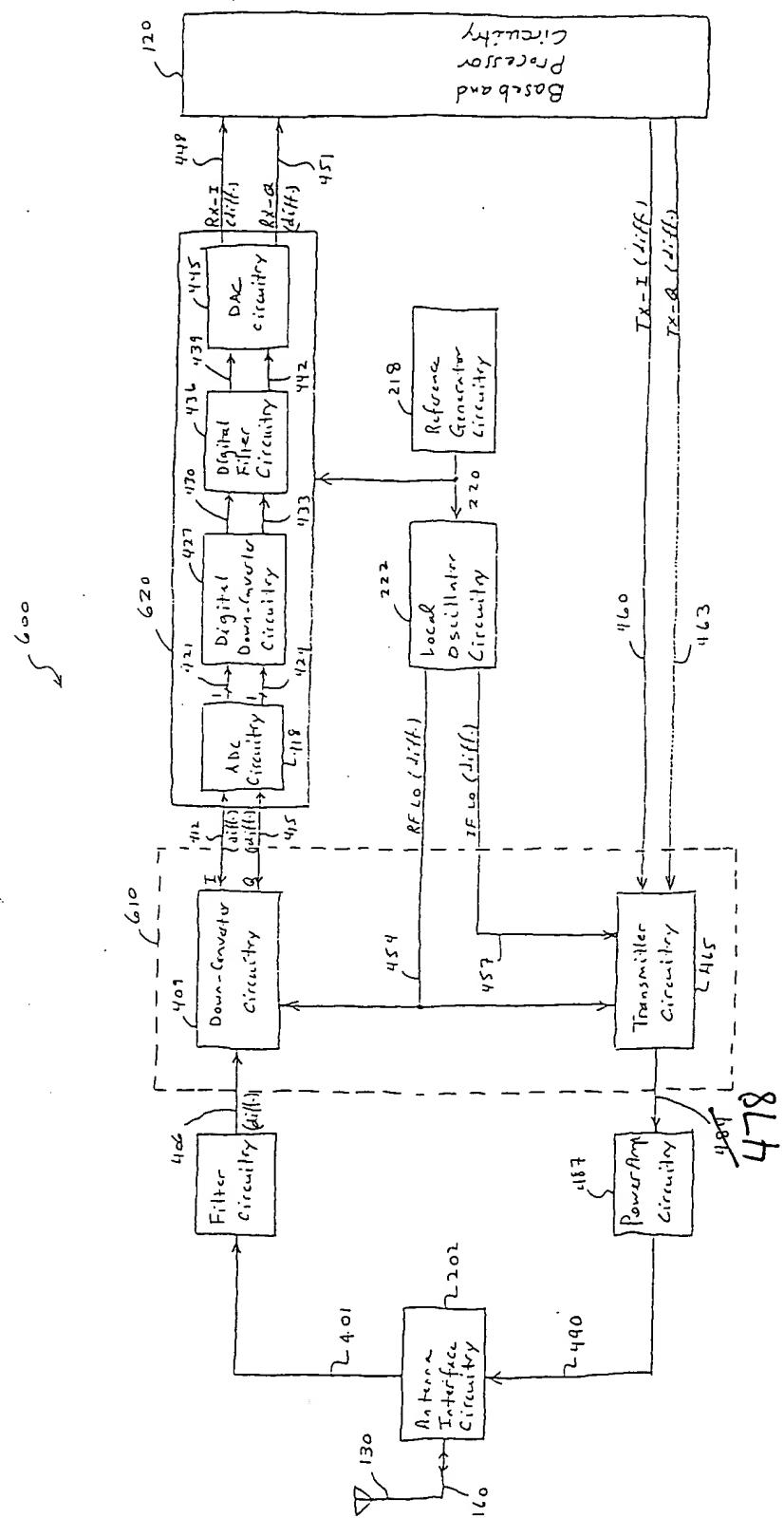


FIG. 6

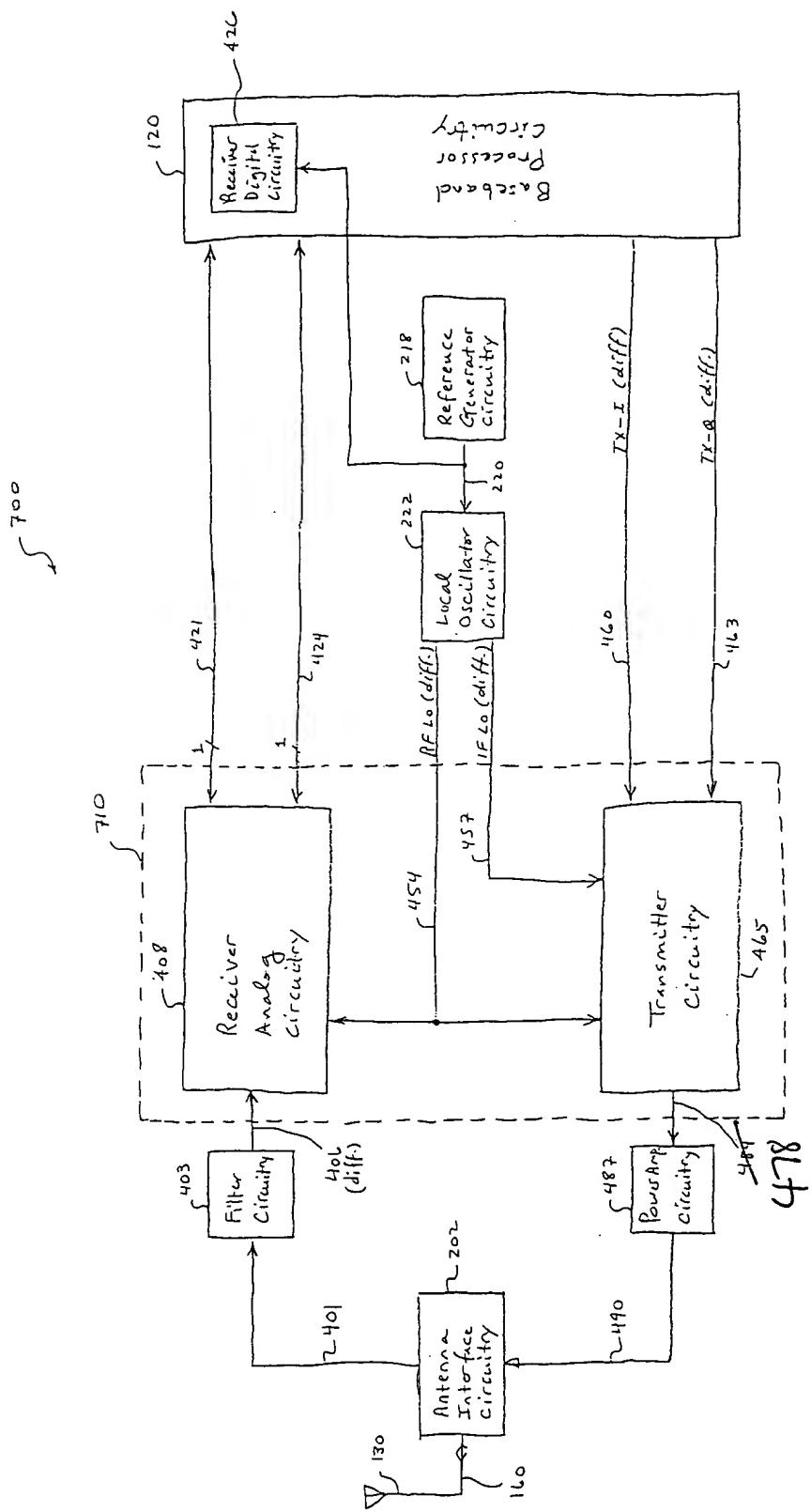


FIG. 7

